GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

Ind. & Com. Dept. – Constitution and Operationalization of Interdepartmental Coordination Committees at the State and District levels to facilitate statutory clearances and expedite the operationalization of mineral leases - Orders – Issued.

INDUSTRIES AND COMMERCE (M-II) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Ms.No.169 Dated:10-09-2025

Read the following:

1. G.O.Ms.No.57, Ind & Com (M.II) Dept., Dt.18.04.2025.
2. From the C&DMG, AP., vide e-file No.INC04-22021 (34)/34/2024-PLANNINGSEC-DMG-Part (2) (Computer No. 2833317), Dt:27.08.2025.

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ORDER:

In the G.O 1st read above, the Government introduced the Minor Mineral Policy 2025, which emphasizes the need for improved interdepartmental coordination to facilitate faster clearances and operationalization of mineral leases.

2. In the letter 2nd read above, the C&DMG, AP., has informed that, currently, over 1,500 minor mineral leases and more than 150 major mineral leases remain non-operational. A significant portion of these are pending due to lack of statutory clearances such as Environmental Clearances (EC), Forest Clearances (FC), Consent for Establishment (CFE), and Revenue NOCs. The reasons for these delays include Lack of clarity or understanding of procedures, Regulatory embargoes or restrictions, High cost or complexity of compliance, Lack of interest or capacity among leaseholders, Pending violation cases and legal ambiguities.

3. The C&DMG, AP., has also informed that, the operationalization of major mineral blocks is under review by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), and timely statutory clearances are critical to ensure these blocks are made operational with minimal disturbance and maximum compliance and requested the Government for constitution and operationalization of Interdepartmental Coordination Committees at the State and District levels to facilitate statutory clearances and expedite the operationalization of mineral leases, as the committees will play a critical role in unlocking the mining potential of the state, ensuring regulatory compliance, and supporting leaseholders through complex legal and procedural challenges.

4. The Government after careful examination of the matter, hereby constitute and operationalize Interdepartmental Coordination Committees at the State and District levels with the following the objectives, structure and functions of the committees as detailed below:

OBJECTIVES:

a. Streamline and expedite the statutory clearance process;
b. Promote interdepartmental collaboration and reduce procedural delays;
c. Maximize the operationalization of leases and unlock economic potential;
d. Ensure focused review and facilitation of major mineral block operationalization;
e. Provide handholding support to leaseholders, especially in violation cases;

I. State Level Co-ordination Committee

This will be a discussion-based committee with no designated Chairperson, to ensure equal participation and collaborative decision-making.

Composition:

i. Secretary, Mines
ii. Secretary, Environment & Forests
iii. Secretary, Industries
iv. Secretary, Revenue
v. Member Secretary, AP Pollution Control Board
vi. Member secretary, SEIAA
vii. Chief Conservator of Forests
viii. Director, Department of Mines & Geology – Member Convenor
ix. Invitees: Legal experts, representatives from industry associations

Functions:

i. Review pendency of ECs, FCs, CFE, and Revenue NOCs
ii. Address inter-agency coordination issues and facilitate resolution.
iii. Track district-wise clearance timelines, progress and strategic guidance to district-level committees.
iv. Study relevant Supreme Court and NGT orders and ensure compliance.
v. Provide guidance on handling violation cases and issue of clearances.
vi. Discuss and facilitate continuation of clearances for expired leases under Section 8B of MMDR Act.
vii. Review and support operationalization of auctioned major mineral locks.
viii. Recommend simplification, digitization and interlinking of processes.
ix. Promote a single-window clearance tracking system with dashboards.

x. Recommend policy changes to unlock mining potential.
xi. Issue time-bound targets for clearance processing.

Meetings:

i. The Director of Mines & Geology shall consolidate inputs from districts, prepare agendas for committee meetings, and highlight key issues requiring interdepartmental resolution.
ii. Bi-monthly meetings, with emergency sessions as needed.
iii. Special sessions for major project proposals and block operationalization.

Workshops:

i. Annual State-Level Workshop on regulatory updates and best practices.
ii. Bi-annual interdepartmental training sessions.
iii. Orientation programs by SEIAA, Forest Department, and APPCB on documentation and common deficiencies.
iv. Special sessions on EC confirmation process, violation cases, and Section 8B provisions.

II. District Level Task Force

Composition:

i. District Collector – Chairman
ii. District Mines & Geology Officer – Member Convenor
iii. Divisional Mines & Geology officer – Member
iv. District Forest Officer – Member
v. Zonal Environmental Engineer, APPCB – Member
vi. Mandal Revenue Officers concerned – Member
vii. Invitees: Legal representatives from industry associations or any others.

Functions:

i. Maintain district-wise clearance status registers.
ii. Facilitate local coordination among departments.
iii. Review and process NOCs from Revenue and other departments.
iv. Submit monthly progress reports to the State Committee.
v. Address grievances and provide handholding support to leaseholders.
vi. Assist leaseholders in resolving violation cases in co-ordination with SEIAA.
vii. Review and support operationalization of mineral blocks at the district level.

Meetings:

i. The District Mines & Geology Officers shall be responsible for maintaining up-to-date records of statutory clearance statuses for all leases within their jurisdiction, including ECs, FCs, CFE, and Revenue NOCs. They will compile district-level data, identify bottlenecks, and submit monthly reports to the State-Level Committee.
ii. Committee should meet at least once in a month.
iii. Special clearance camps for small-scale and minor mineral applicants.

Workshops:

i. Bi-annual district workshops on mining regulations & environmental norms.
ii. Community awareness programs on mining impacts and grievance redressal.
iii. Orientation and support for small leaseholders in preparing applications.
iv. Hands-on clearance clinics using real case studies.
v. Special sessions on forest clearance procedures.

5. Further, additional focus may be imposed for:

a. Forest clearances, particularly those involving the diversion of forest land for mining, are a critical component of the statutory approval process and require coordinated efforts across departments.
b. Similarly, the operationalization of newly auctioned major mineral blocks currently under review by the Prime Minister's Office demands focused facilitation to ensure timely commencement of mining activities.
c. Both aspects shall be regularly reviewed by the State and District Committees to ensure compliance, minimize procedural hurdles, and provide necessary support to leaseholders for securing approvals in line with applicable laws and national priorities.

6. The Commissioner and Director of Mines & Geology, A.P., shall take necessary action accordingly in the matter.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

PRAVIN KUMAR
SECRETARY TOGOVERNMENT(MINES)

To
The Commissioner and Director of Mines & Geology, A.P.,
Ibrahimpatnam, NTR District. (w.e)

Copy to:
The Finance (FMU, I&C, I&I & Energy) Department.
The Law Department.
All the District Collectors.
The Secy. Environment & Forest Dept., AP Secretariat.
The Secy. I & C Dept., AP Secretariat.
The Secy. Revenue Dept., AP Secretariat.
The Secy. AP Pollution Control Board Dept., AP Secretariat.
The Secy. SEIAA, Vijayawada.
The Chief Conservator of Forests, APIIC Towers, Mangalagiri.
The Zonal Environmental Engineer, APPCB, Vijayawada.
All Mandal Revenue Officers.
All Districts Mines & Geology Officers.
The PS to Spl. CS to CM.
The OSD to Minister(M&G).
The PS to Secy. to Govt.(M).
SF/SC.(C.No:2953499)

//FORWARDED::BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER